(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce the cancelled trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Gold Deposit in Karnataka

2941. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh deposits of gold have been detected in Chitradurga and Sandur districts of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to fully assess the extent of the gold deposits in and around these two districts, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India (GSI), through mineral investigations, has detected deposits of gold in Chitradurga (0.6 million tonnes) and grade of (4 gram/tonne). The Gold deposits have been established in G.R Halli, South Block, Chikkanahalli, Gonur-Kotemaradi, M.N. Halli, Kanchigana-halu and Honnemaradi. No gold prospect has been found in Sandur District of Karnataka.

(c) Assessment of Gold potential in Chitradurga district, Karnataka is a regular programme of mineral explcration of GSI.

Radio Station, Orissa

2942. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRODCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the radio stations in Orissa which are broadcasting regional news at present;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure more coverage of news originating from different regions in the State;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the poor and inadequate visual content of regional news bulletins particularly from Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there has been constant demand to increase the visual content; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Cuttack Regional News of All India Radio in Orissa is broadcasting Regional News bulletins in Oriya. Sambalpur and Jeypore stations of AIR relay these news builetins while other stations in Orissa, including Local Radio Stations relay evening bulletins only for the benefit of listeners throuthout Orissa.

(b) To provide coverage of news originating from different regions, AIR has deployed staff correspondents part-time correspondets in various parts of Orissa.

(c) and (d). Adequate number of visuals from different regions of Orissa are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar. On an average, 12 to 15 visuals items, out of which 8 to 10 pertaining to Orissa are included in the daily regional news bulletin.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. There has been demand to increase the visual content. It is Doordarshan's endeavour to include more visuals in news bulletin. Every effort is made to include as many visuals as possible with the help of Doordarshan's own camera team, Stringers and ENG Unit available with the Information and Public Relations Department of Government of Orissa.

Iron Ore Mines in Karnataka

2943. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Iron ore mines have been leased out to private sector in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of mines leased out to Private Sector, run by State Government, Union Government or any other Public Sector Unit;

(c) the production of iron ore in these mines during each of the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of iron ore exported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information provided by Indian Bureau of Mines three Iron ore mines in Bellary District were transferred by Mysore Minerals Ltd., a State Government Undertaking to M/s. Tungabhadra Minerals Ltd. in 1985.

(c) The production of Iron Ore in these three mines during the last three years is given below :

Year	Production of Iron Ore (In Tonnes)		
1993-94	19111	2053	20158
1994-95	10691	3258	24197
1995-96	24589	900	1179

(d) The entire production of Iron ore from each mines has been despatched for export.

Gauge Conversion

2944. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Yelahanka and Bangarpet narrow gauge line into meter gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gauge Conversion of Yellahanka-Chickballapur has already been completed. Work on Bangarpet-Kolar has been taken up and is likely to be completed in this financial year. Kolar-Chickballapur will be taken up in the coming years.

Local Call Facility

2945. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to provide facility of local calls to all the cities/towns included in the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Local call means a call from a subscriber's line to another subscriber line on any exchange within the same exchange system (local area). Telephone exchanges in various cities/towns of National Capital Retion have separate local areas of their own. As such local call facility to all cities/towns in National Capital Region is not admissible.

Introduction of Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput

2946. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput via Rayagada after commissioning of the Koraput-Rayagada new B.G. rail link;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in introduction of said train;

(c) the steps taken in this direction; and

(d) the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). An Express train connection between Bhubaneswar and Koraput via Rayagada will be provided on availability of clearance for passenger train running on the Koraput-Rayagada line.

There has been delay in receipt of Commissioner of Railway Satety's sanction on account of certain technical constraints in the tunnels in the newly constructed section.

[Translation]

Termination of Trains Running on Narrow Gauge line

2947. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to terminate the trains running between Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert Gwalior-Sheopur narrow gauge line;

(d) whether this work is likely to be undertaken in the budget of 1997-98;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. Due to constraint of resources.

(f) Does not arise.

Backlog of Employment in the Country

2948. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of unemployment in the country by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievement made to generate jobs for the unemployed person during the current Plan period;

(c) whether a new strategy has been adopted by the Government to create additional employment in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The backlog of unemployment at the end of the Seventh Plan was of the order of 17.0 million.